

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 07226 121101Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 NEA-11 /100 W
-----030943 121133Z /11

P 121020Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8887
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 7226

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, PERP, OAU, SP, XA, NI
SUBJECT: SPANISH REQUEST FOR US SUPPORT ON CANARIES ISSUE

REF: (A) STATE 141893, (B) STATE 143273

1. ON JUNE 9 CHARGE DISCUSSED CANARIES ISSUE WITH
VICTOR TAYLOR, DEPTY CHIEF OF MEA'S AFRICA DEPARTMENT.
HE SAID HE HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO REQUEST THAT THE
NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT SEEK TO PREVENT THE CANARIES ISSUE
FROM BEING RAISED AT THE JULY 20 OAU SUMMIT MEETING
IN KHARTOUM AND THAT, IF RAISED, NIGERIA SEEK TO
INSURE THAT THE OAU NOT ADOPT THE LIBERATION COMMITTEE'S
RECOMMENDATION. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE SUBJECT MAY
ALSO ARISE AT THE MEETING OF THE OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE IN
DAR ES SALAAM ON JUNE 19. IN THE DISCUSSION CHARGE POINTED OUT
THAT VIRTUALLY THE ENTIRE POPULATION OF THE CANARIES IS
SPANISH, THAT THE CANARIES ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF
SPAIN, AND THAT IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE FOR THE OAU
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PAGE 02 LAGOS 07226 121101Z

TO INVOLVE ITSELF IN SUCH A NON-PROBLEM. WHEN IT
CONFRONTS SO MANY SERIOUS PROBLEMS.

2. TAYLOR REPLIED THAT THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER
HAD ALREADY APPROACHED NIGERIA ON THE SUBJECT AND THAT
THE FMG'S VIEW ON THE SUBJECT HAD BEEN MADE KNOWN TO
HIM AT THAT TIME. HE WOULD NEVERTHELESS PASS ON TO

HIGHER AUTHORITY THE REQUEST WHICH HAD BEEN MADE BY THE
USG. HIS PERSONAL VIEW WAS THAT SPAIN'S ACTION IN
DRIVING ALL THE NATIVE INHABITANTS OFF THE ISLANDS LONG
AGO DID NOT GUARANTEE THE LEGITIMACY OF ITS TITLE, AND
THAT HE DID NOT THINK SPAIN WAS HELPING ITSELF BY RE-
FUSING TO ACCEPT AN OAU FACT-FINDING MISSION.

3. COMMENT: WE ARE CONVINCED THAT US PREFERENCES WITH
REGARD TO THE OAU'S HANDLING OF THIS ISSE ARE UNLIKELY
TO INFLUENCE THE FMG AND THAT IF FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS
ON THE CANARIES ISSUE HAD ANY EFFECT IT WOULD BE MORE LIKELY
BE ON THE ATTITUDES OF NIGERIAN POLICYMAKERS TOWARDS THE USG.
WYMAN

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